"Quality Education to End Exclusion"

The Global Teacher

Issue 8, Spring 2008

— GLOBAL ACTION WEEK 2008 —
April 21 – 27

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and Oxfam Canada invite teachers in every province and territory to help maintain the momentum of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) by participating in Global Action Week, April 21-27, 2008.

The Canadian Global Campaign for Education (CGCE) is committed to encouraging children to play an active role in advocating for the rights of all children to a good quality basic education. CGCE curriculum and activities reached 1,300 classrooms across Canada last year.

The President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Emily Noble, invites teachers across Canada to help set a Guinness World Record™ for the World's Biggest Lesson on April 23.

"This year marks the mid-point towards the 2015 EFA goals. We have made progress but governments have much to do to keep their promises. I am so pleased to join the global movement taking place in over 100 countries by taking part in the World's Biggest Lesson."

Emily Noble, President, CTF

This is a highlight activity for this year's Global Action Week, held annually to mark the anniversary of the 2000 World Education Forum in Dakar and to remind world leaders of their promises to ensure equitable access to quality education. One standardized lesson will take place around the world, delivered by teachers, students, politicians and education supporters.

Did you know?

2007
5 million joined-up and formed the world's longest chain demanding "Education Rights Now!"

2006
Millions of campaigners in 120 countries formed a global voice that shouted "Every Child Needs a Teacher!"

2005
At least 5 million young people and education activists called on world leaders to 'Educate to End Poverty' through "Send my Friends a Teacher".

2004
More than 2 million people took part in the World's Biggest Lobby, "Missing an Education"; and 14 Heads of State and dozens of Ministers joined in.

18 Million new teachers needed by 2015

UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report 2008

April 21-27, 2008

Did you know...

In April 2000 at the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, 185 governments–including Canada–committed to provide ***Education for All*** by the year 2015. Global Action Week celebrates the right to basic education which is inherent to being human, each child's birthright and thus constitutes an end in itself.

Today, 72 million children still do not go to school.

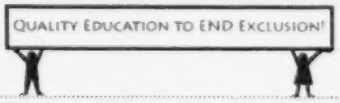
In Dakar the world committed to six *Education for All* goals:

1. Expand early childhood care and education
2. Provide free and compulsory primary education for all
3. Promote learning and life skills for young people and adults
4. Increase adult literacy by 50%
5. Achieve gender parity by 2005, gender equality by 2015
6. Improve the quality of education

YOU can participate in Global Action Week and the *"World's BIGGEST Lesson"* on April 23, 2008 along with 18 million participants from 100 countries!

Interested?

Please e mail us at gaw@cgce.ca
www.campaignforeducationcanada.org



Quality Education to END Exclusion!

The Global Teacher

The Canadian Global Campaign for Education offers a curriculum package with flexible literacy, social and critical thinking activities for elementary classrooms (grades 3-6). The activities address the theme of quality education to end exclusion and invite all teachers and children across the country to take action for the right to quality education to end exclusion.

We are a member of the Global Campaign for Education, a group that advocates for Education for All around the world. Global Action Week celebrates the right to basic education which is inherent to being human. It is each child's birthright and thus constitutes an end in itself.

www.campaignforeducationcanada.org

CANADIAN GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION
WWW.CAMPAIGNFOREDUCATIONCANADA.ORG

CTF Backgrounders and Lesson Plans

Updated CTF lesson plans and materials that build on the "Send my Friend to School" theme are available again this year. They are designed to introduce primary and secondary students to the reasons why over 72 million children do not have access to education, to raise student awareness of education and development and to explore the link between poverty and education.

The secondary level also increases understanding of the Millennium Development Goals and prompts further inquiry.

For Lesson Plans, Kits and Information, visit the Global Action Week section of the CTF Web site: **www.ctf-fce.ca**

CTF would like to acknowledge the support of CIDA for Global Action Week activities, including the CGCE Curriculum Kits. For more information on the CIDA Global Classroom Initiative, visit ***www.acdi-cida.gc.ca***

The Global Teacher is produced by the Canadian Teachers' Federation in collaboration with Oxfam Canada and distributed to publicly funded schools across Canada. The newsletter highlights topical links between sustainable development and education and provides opportunities for engaging Canadian teachers and students in the Global Campaign for Education.

Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

Oxfam Canada

Public education and the Millennium Development Goals

In 2000, the member states of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a series of 8 realistic, achievable goals designed to end extreme poverty by 2015:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Access to education can play a significant role not only in meeting goal #2, the achievement of universal primary education, it is key to achieving several of the other goals.

Where education is free and universal:

- **Enrollment figures go up:** In Tanzania, free education has meant that 3.5 million more children are in school.
- **More girls and women go to school:** In Sri Lanka, where education is free up to the university level, 88 per cent of women are literate.
- **Hunger is stopped:** Gains in women's education has played a major role in reducing malnutrition and increasing food availability.
- **HIV/AIDS is less likely to spread:** If all girls and boys completed basic education, 7 million new cases of HIV/AIDS could be prevented over the next 10 years.
- **Maternal and childhood health improve:** Sending a girl to school increases the chances that she and her infant will survive childbirth and improves the prospects for her children as they grow.
- **Women are empowered:** For a girl, every year spent in school means a 10 to 20 per cent increase in her future earnings.

A huge challenge is making sure that there are enough teachers to handle the tens of millions of children eager to attend school. Balkissa Alassana, a teacher at the N'tahaka village school in Mali, is a fierce advocate of equality in the classroom and fights to get girls into school. Balkissa is concerned about the lack of teachers at her school. "We need more trained teachers," she says. "We need classrooms. We need updated training for our teachers. And we need guides to help us improve our teaching abilities and do our jobs better. We have all the enthusiasm in the world but not the means or training to be better teachers. I want the government to prioritize education. With just a little bit of government help," she concludes, "we could do so much more."

Midway to the 2015 target, the MDGs are in danger of not being met, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. The United Nations has estimated that to meet the goal of providing quality education for all children by 2015, an additional 18 million new teachers worldwide—4 million in Africa alone—are needed. Where will the support come from? Oxfam has estimated it would cost $47 billion more a year to meet the MDGs for health, education, water and sanitation. In comparison, global military spending now exceeds $1 trillion.

To learn more about Balkissa, visit **www.oxfam.org** and click on Health and Education for All.

unicef

Many of today's students were young children in 2000, the year that ushered in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and reaffirmed "Education for All" (EFA) Targets. Some will be approaching the end of high school in 2015 the target date for these global achievements. Will the world these graduates step into be more equitable for all?

UNICEF's curriculum-linked lesson plans, ***Measuring Success: the Millennium Development Goals*** can help intermediate and secondary school teachers explore the goals in their global classroom. What progress has been made? How are youth around the world tackling the MDGs? What work still needs to be done? How can Canadian youth act now?

UNICEF resources can help your students imagine the future and engage in service projects related to reaching these global goals.

To download resources, view case studies and learn more, visit **www.unicef.ca/globaleducation**

Engaging in Our Communities... as Global Citizens

A citizenship education initiative centred on the values of the environment, democracy, peace and solidarity

The first teaching activities in the teacher's guide *Engaging in Our Communities as Global Citizens* invite students to discover how the values of the environment, democracy, peace and solidarity help to ensure a sustainable future. The second series of activities invites them to take action within their group, their school and their community, in a spirit of openness to the world. Finally, the guide suggests making a commitment of solidarity with communities in developing countries.

The teacher's guide is complemented by the *Student Activist Guide*, which offers youth various ways of taking action, including Web links to social justice groups across the country.

The *Student Passport* allows students to record their commitment and actions and receive stickers of recognition.

Citizenship is not a new concept, but in this globalized economy which views human beings as resources, the ideals of democracy, peace and solidarity have been profoundly shaken. In order to survive and carve themselves a place in this new world, individuals are forced to pursue a personal agenda, to adopt individual survival strategies and to seek personal gain, at the great expense of our planet Earth. As a result, societies are forgetting the meaning of "being and doing together" and the glue that holds all people together – "the common good". It is time for us to revisit the respective values of the environment, democracy, peace and solidarity, as well as to explore their valuable interconnectedness.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation has adapted pedagogical workshop materials, developed in 2005 by the Centrale des syndicats du Québec, for use in a 2007 bilingual national version of the workshop – *Engaging in Our Communities as Global Citizens: A citizenship education initiative centred on the values of the environment, democracy, peace and solidarity.*

For additional information contact:

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Celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. More than 6 million Canadians join 500 million people in over 180 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity.

Visit www.earthday.ca to find out more or visit Green Street at www.green-street.ca to find out what environmental programs are available in your area.

Mary Walsh Swings Her Sword for "Taps, Toilets, Clinics and Classrooms."

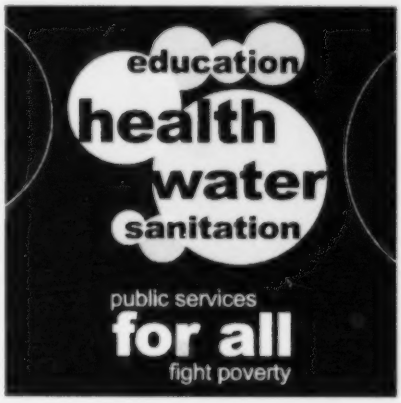
"Imagine a day when there are teachers for all the world's children."

Mary to Advertising Executive Geoffrey Roche

The Princess Warrior has joined Oxfam Canada in bringing the message of "Taps, Toilets, Clinics and Classrooms for all" to the Canadian Public!

Mary Walsh, Canada's premier comedian, political satirist and 'Princess Warrior' has taken to the boardrooms, sword in hand, in support of the "For All" campaign.

The advertising executives who graciously agreed to be ambushed did not know what hit them when Mary as Marg Delahunty unleashed her rapid-fire, tarty-tongue and did a no-holds barred vocal onslaught reminding them that



without access to education, health, water and sanitation, poor women and men are denied the opportunity and ability to escape poverty.

These talented advertising executives have graciously committed their respective teams to helping Oxfam with its messaging. So, too have some of Canada's top media agencies, they have agreed to dedicate air time to help spread the word: If we want to make poverty history, we have to ensure everyone has access to health, education, water and sanitation. **Public services ~ for all ~ fight poverty.**

To view Mary, sword in hand, visit **www.youtube.com** and search **'doryads'**.
To add your support to the Oxfam campaign visit **www.oxfam.ca** and sign on.

Try the toilet quiz.

2008 has been declared the UN International Year of Sanitation. What better time to test your knowledge on water and sanitation. Try the toilet quiz?

1. **Experts and readers of The British Medical Journal recently voted "_____ _____" the most significant medical advance since 1840.**

   What is a) antibiotics? b) sanitation? c) anesthesia?

2. **Most of the 1.1 billion people lacking access to clean water on average use ___ litres, or one tenth what we use daily to flush toilets.**

   What is a) 5 litres? b) 10 litres? c) 20 litres?

3. **According to United Nations, poor sanitation, hygiene and unsafe water claim the lives of an estimated _____ children every day.**

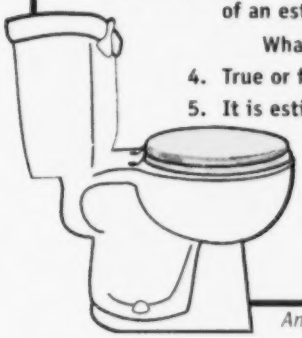
   What is a) 40? b) 400? c) 4,000?

4. **True or false, clean and safe latrines are critical to advancing a girl's education.**

5. **It is estimated $10 billion annually will halve the number of people without basic sanitation by 2015.**

   This is equivalent to

   a) 1% of world military spending
   b) one-third of the estimated global spending on bottled water
   c) what Europeans spend on ice cream each year



Answers on page 6.

Basic Sanitation & Girls' Education

"Access to sanitation is deeply connected to virtually all the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those involving the environment, education, gender equality and the reduction of child mortality and poverty."

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

2008 has been declared the United Nations International Year of Sanitation. At issue are some cruel statistics:

- 2.6 billion people worldwide are without proper sanitation facilities.
- 42,000 people die every week from diseases related to low water quality and an absence of adequate sanitation.
- every 20 seconds, a child dies as a result of poor sanitation. That's 1.5 million preventable deaths each year.

What is less obvious is the link sanitation has to access to education, most notably girls' education. Having no toilets at school prevents girls from attending when they are menstruating, causing one in ten school-age girls in Africa to drop out during puberty. Providing improved sanitation enables girls to remain in school. According to UNICEF, all primary schools need clean, separate latrines for boys and for girls.

According to the UN Development Programme, (see the 2006 Human Development Report) about half the girls in Sub-Saharan Africa who drop out of primary school do so because of poor water and sanitation facilities. Water-related diseases such as diarrhea and parasitic infections cost 443 million school days each year—equivalent to an entire school year for all seven-year-old children in Ethiopia—and diminish learning potential.

In addition, where access to clean water is denied, millions of young girls and women are expected to collect water for their families. On average, they walk 6 kilometers a day carrying 20 litres of water. This serves to keep millions of girls out of school. In Tanzania, school attendance levels are 12% higher for girls in homes 15 minutes or less from a water source than in homes an hour or more away.

The United Nations estimates $10 billion annually will be enough to cut in half the number of people without basic sanitation by 2015. $10 billion is equivalent to 1% of global military spending.

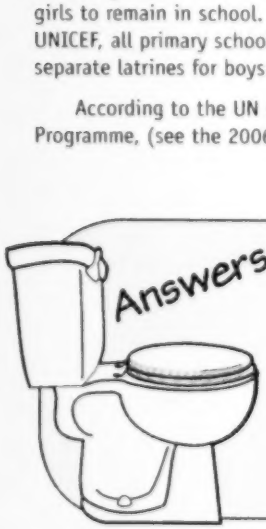
SANITATION & WATER ACTION NETWORK CANADA

RÉSEAU D'ACTION POUR L'ASSAINISSEMENT ET L'EAU CANADA

SWAN Canada is a new Canadian coalition that believes that the Government of Canada must increase Canada's foreign aid funding for water and sanitation initiatives to fight against global poverty.

"Currently, sanitation and water-related projects represent two per cent (approx. $70 million) of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) annual disbursements and only a portion of that goes directly to providing clean water and sanitation to the world's poorest people."

For their open letter to the Prime Minister and to learn more, visit **www.swancanada.org**



Answers

1. **b) sanitation**
2. **a) 5 litres**
3. **c) 4,000 children a day**
4. **d) True — Millions of school-aged girls drop out of school because of the lack of private sanitization facilities**
5. **They are all correct**

For resources and project information on WaterCan's *"Clean Water for Schools"*, visit www.watercan.com